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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

JANE SWIFT
GOVERNOR

ROBERT P. GITTENS
SECRETARY

HOWARD K. KOH, MD, MPH
COMMISSIONER

January 3, 2002

The Honorable Massachusetts Delegates to the US Senate and House of Representatives

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's policy on potassium iodide (KI). I very much appreciate your comments and concerns, and wish to assure you that we are fully aware of the many issues related to the use of KI as a protective measure in the event of radioactive iodine exposure resulting from an act of terrorism involving a nuclear power plant.

As noted in the Department's 2000 update on KI policy, we are maintaining our commitment to reviewing and revising our KI policy by routinely monitoring local, state, and federal policies on KI, and keeping abreast of current scientific research and public health policy.

In fact, as recently as October 10, 2001, in the wake of the September 11th terrorist acts, we sent a letter to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission requesting information about the status of their revised emergency response rules, and about how to obtain access to funding for KI in Massachusetts.

I understand that as of December 20, 2001, the NRC has sent letters to all states with nuclear power plants offering to supply KI to requesting states. The Department plans to assist in preparation of the Commonwealth's request for these resources.

Again, thank you for your letter. We sincerely appreciate your interest, concern, and support.

Sincerely,

Howard K. Koh, MD, MPH

Howard K. Koh, MD, MPH
Commissioner

cc. The Honorable Jane Swift, Governor
Robert P. Gittens, Secretary of Health and Human Services
James P. Jajuga, Secretary of Public Safety
Stephen J. McGrath, Director, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
Nancy Ridley, Assistant Commissioner for Health Quality Management
Robert Hallisey, Director, Radiation Control Program